

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS  
COUNTY OF ESSEX

RESOLUTION NO. R-11-0625  
PROPOSED BY: FREEHOLDERS LUCIANO, SEBOLD & CLARK  
SUBJECT:

AUTHORITY FOR RESOLUTION N.J.S.A. 40:41A-38(a)  
AUTHORITY FOR ACTION C.C.E. 3:2-29(B)

COMMENDATION

#13

HONORING ERICA DePALO

2011 "ESSEX COUNTY TEACHER OF THE YEAR"

WHEREAS, Erica DePalo of Montclair, New Jersey, was named the 2011 "Essex County Teacher of the Year" in July of 2011 through the New Jersey Department of Education's annual "Teacher of the Year" competition; and

WHEREAS, Erica DePalo was first named the 2011 "West Orange Teacher of the Year" in January of 2011, before being selected as the 2011 "Essex County Teacher of the Year" by representatives of the education community under the guidance and direction of the New Jersey Department of Education, Essex County Office, which is led by Executive County Superintendant Dr. Lawrence S. Feinsod; and

WHEREAS, the annual New Jersey Department of Education "Teacher of the Year" program is intended to recognize and honor the contributions of outstanding classroom teacher leaders, Pre-K through Grade 12, who possess a special talent for inspiring a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities. The initial phase of the competition is at the local level where individual school districts select their "teachers of the year", who are then eligible to be named their county's "teacher of the year". A New Jersey "teacher of the year" is then selected from the 21 county "teachers of the year", who then becomes a candidate for the National Teacher of the Year Program; and

WHEREAS, Erica DePalo currently teaches at West Orange High School, where she has been employed since September of 2003, and where she currently teaches Honors English for Grades 9 (Institute for Math and Science High Honors Program) and 10, and is involved in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program. Previously, she also taught Journalism (Grade 9), Creative Writing (Grades 9-12) and College Preparatory English (Grade 9); and

WHEREAS, Erica DePalo has also participated in numerous staff development leadership activities and leadership activities in the training of teachers, including: Team Leader for vertical alignment between district, middle and high schools (2010-present); Grade 9 Coordinator for a Small Learning Community Grant (November 2010-present); Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee for Small Learning Communities (November 2010-present); Co-Chair of Professional Learning Community Pride and Culture Committee (2008-09); Member of Professional Learning Communities for Language Arts Grades 9 and 10 (2008-09); and Presenter for Year Three District New Teacher Orientation, Model Unit and Lesson Plan Development, "Understanding by Design" (2007-2009); and

WHEREAS, Erica DePalo earned her B.A. in English with a minor in Sociology (Women's History Concentration) from Villanova University. She then went on to earn her M.A. in Liberal Studies from the Graduate School of Arts and Science at New York University, as well as an Administrative Certificate from the College of Education and Human Services at Montclair State University. Currently, she is working on her Master of Education in Educational Leadership at The College of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, Erica DePalo was also named as the recipient of the 2011 West Orange Chamber of Commerce "Outstanding Service Award" in May; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders hereby congratulates Erica DePalo for being named the 2011 "Essex County Teacher of the Year", and commends her for her outstanding and highly successful efforts to educate and inspire her students; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Erica DePalo.

Approved as to form and legality

Michael J. Parlaminis

RECORD OF VOTE (X=Vote N.V.=Absention ABS=Absent)

Moved by Freeholder

Watson

Second by Freeholder

Caputo

Freeholder	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS	Freeholder	Yes	No	N.V.	ABS
BEASLEY	✓				PAYNE, JR	✓			
CAPUTO, VICE PRES.	✓				Bobadilla			✓	
Luciano	✓				SEBOLD	✓			
CLARK	✓								
JOHNSON				✓	WATSON, PRES.	✓			

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution was ☒ adopted ( ) defeated ( ) tabled by roll call vote at a Regular meeting of the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Essex, New Jersey held on Sept. 7, 2011

Is Publication Required ( ) Yes ( ) No

Date Published

Blennie R. Watson  
President